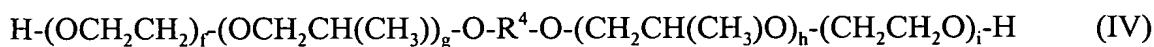


particles having an average particle diameter of 20 to 200 nm, which particles contain a colorant, and (B) at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae:



*a<sup>3</sup>  
cm*  
wherein each of **a** and **d** is independently a number of 10 to 40; each of **b** and **c** is independently a number of 5 to 20; **e** is a number of 1 to 3; **f** is a number of 5 to 20; each of **g** and **h** is independently a number of 0 to 4, wherein **g + h** is a number satisfying 1 to 4; **i** is a number of 5 to 20; each of  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  is independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms;  $R^2$  is a divalent aliphatic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms;  $R^4$  is a divalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; and the oxyethylene chain and the oxypropylene chain described in the formulae (III) and (IV) may be added in random or block forms.

2. (Amended) The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein said colorant is a hydrophobic dye or a pigment.

Please add the following new claims:

*A4*  
5. (New) The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein said monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, hexyl and isohexyl.

*A4*

6. (New) The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is independently a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, and R<sup>4</sup> is a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms.

7. (New) The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein said colorant is an organic pigment or carbon black.

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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to delineate clearly the components of the aqueous dispersion as being "(A) an aqueous dispersion of polymer particles having an average particle diameter of 20 to 200 nm, which particles contain a colorant, and (B) at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative...." Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Basis for these limitations may be found on page 6, lines 12-15 and page 10, line 25 through page 11, line 2 of the specification. The specification on page 3 and Claim 1 have been amended to correct an obvious typographical error in the placement of the oxygen in Formula (II). Claim 2 has been amended to recite the colorant as being a hydrophobic dye or a pigment. Basis for this limitation may be found on page 4, lines 7 through 10 of the specification. New Claims 5 through 7 have been added to preferred embodiments. Basis for new Claims 5 and 6 may be found on page 10, line 25 to page 11, line 20 of the specification. Basis for new Claim 7 may be found in Claim 2 as originally filed. No new matter has been added into the specification, amended claims or new claims.

*(Signature)*